

Commandment II

Scripture: Exod. 20:1-6

Intro: God rigidly and inflexibly forbids the usage of graven images in worship and service of the Lord. Images – icons – pictures – beads – etc. (Lev. 26:1; Three areas mentioned are Heavenly, earthly, oceanic. (Ex. 20:4; Jer. 10:2)

1. The prohibition of God. (Ex. 20:5)
2. The compassion of God. (Ex. 20:6)

(Command I: Worshipping a false god. Command II: Worshipping the true God in a false way.)

I. Commanded Prohibition of God (Ex. 20:4)

- A. Manufacture of images for religious use forbidden. (Mt. 22:20; Lev. 26:1)
 1. Impossible to physically portray invisible God. (Deut.4:15; Jn. 4:24)
 - a. God hates it. (Deut. 16:22)
 - b. God rejects it. (Isa. 48:11)
 2. Unprofitable to portray infinite God: Jesus was God. Man. Idol presents poor resemblance of the man, but not the God. (Jn. 1:14)
- B. Man-made images for religion reduces glory to figures. (Rom. 1:20-23)
 1. Change His glory incorruptible to corruption. (Rom. 1:23; Ex. 34:14)
 2. Change of God for images of human invention. (Eccl. 7:29)
 - a. Change His glory. (Rom. 1:23)
 - b. Change His truth. (Rom. 1:25)
 - c. Change His law. (Rom. 1:26)

II. Demanded Practices Toward God. (Ex. 24:4-6)

- A. The restriction is binding. (Deut. 5:8-10)
 1. Do not make them. (Ex. 20:4)
 2. Do not bow to them. (Ex. 20:5)
 - a. Brings God's visitation program to you. personally. (Jer. 5:9; Ex. 15:26; Deut. 7:15)
 - b. Brings God's visitation to children. posterity. (Ex. 20:5) While son is not damned, yet he may be severely punished. Father's sin ruins him.
 - c. Brings God's views to our attention. Provoked. "of those that hate Me."
 1. Idolaters hate God. (Deut. 7:10)
 2. Idolatry hated by God. (Deut. 16:22)

(Though idolaters love their false images of God, they hate His true image in believers.)

- B. The restraints of believers. (Ezek. 8:12; 14:4) (in his heart)
 1. No images in home. (Acts 17:23).
 2. No images in heart.

III. Remandment Prescribed by God. (Ex. 20:4-6)

- A. Committed by decree to proper worship. (Jn. 4:23-24)
 - 1. Threats against idolatry. (Gal. 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8; II Cor. 6:16; I Jn. 5:21)
 - 2. Truths about idolatry. (I Cor. 8:4)
- B. Commanded by decree to purposeful worship.
 - 1. Proper worship desires God. No substitutes.
 - 2. Proper worship despises interferences. No stocks.
 - 3. Proper worship delights in fellowship. No sin.